



TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

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News Release

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\$5.4 Million Awarded to Organizations Providing Direct Support to Texas Veterans

AUSTIN – On Wednesday, May 18th, the Texas Veterans Commission awarded 21 organizations over 5.4 million dollars in grants from the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance.

"Prior to Wednesday, the Commission provided over \$9 million in Fund for Veterans' Assistance grants to 39 local government and non-profit organizations to help 38,956 veterans and their family members," said Bill Wilson, Director of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance. "The 21 new grantees are projected to serve an additional 52,488 Veterans, dependents and surviving spouses between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012,"

The grants are awarded to help all Texas veterans facing difficulties, including recently separated veterans and their families as they adjust to civilian life. Services funded include transportation to medical facilities, counseling for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), housing assistance for homeless veterans, short-term emergency financial needs, veteran courts, legal assistance and career training.

"There are 1.8 million Veterans residing in Texas," says Thomas Palladino, Executive Director of the Texas Veterans Commission. "For many of the men and women who served their country with honor, the transition to life as a civilian is met with unanticipated obstacles. The organizations receiving these grants offer programs that focus on helping Veterans overcome these obstacles."

Since its introduction in November 2009, sales of *Veterans Cash* \$2 scratch-off tickets have provided over \$14.5 million to the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance. The newest game, launched Monday, May 16th, features the iconic image of John Wayne.

Veterans Cash has been the primary source of funds for Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance. Individuals can also support the Fund for Veterans' Assistance by making an online donation through texasveteranscommission.org or when registering a vehicle.

Donations to the TVC Fund for Veterans' Assistance are tax deductible under the provisions of Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Texas Veterans Commission

The Texas Veterans Commission's mission is to advocate for and provide superior service to Veterans and their families in the areas of disability claims assistance, employment services, education benefits and grant funding. Over 200 skilled counselors in 75 cities provide one-on-one guidance to Veterans and their families to ensure they receive all of the benefits to which they are entitled.

For more information about the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance visit <http://www.tvc.state.tx.us/TVCFundforVeteransAssistance.html>.

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